

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: 10 TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET INVASION OF
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA TEN YEARS AGO IS TERMED A "LESSON" FOR THE WEST AND A "WARNING" TO OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES IN KINSHASA DAILY ELIMA FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY (AUGUST 22). JOURNALIST KOSO LETETA SAYS THE INVASION LEFT SCARS ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT AND GAVE BIRTH TO "EUROCOMMUNISM" --- A SEARCH FOR A MORE HUMAN BRAND OF SOCIALISM. HE INDICATES THAT ONE OF THE RESULTS OF THE INVASION HAS BEEN THE CHALLENGE, BY OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, OF THE SO-CALLED CONCEPT OF "LIMITED SOVEREIGNTY", ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET UNION HAS NOT BEEN STRIPPED OF ITS LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE COMMUNIST WORLD. MR. KOSO ARGUES THAT ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS NOW CONSIDER THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS "NORMALIZED", THE INVASION FAILED TO CHANGE MENTALITIES, AND MANY CZECHS STILL RESIST THE "COLLECTIVE WAY OF LIFE MOSCOW HAS IMPOSED ON THEM".

2. ACCORDING TO COMMENTARY, THE INVASION CONSTITUTES A LESSON TO THE WEST BECAUSE IT SHOWS THAT THE KREMLIN CAN OBTAIN POLITICAL AND TERRITORIAL GAINS WHENEVER IT WANTS. IT IS ALSO "A WARNING TO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACIES", CONTINUED MR. KOSO,
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"OF WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO THEM IF THEY TRY TO ESTABLISH A DIFFERENT TYPE OF SOCIALISM". JOURNALIST KOSO POINTS OUT THAT THE EXISTENCE OF IDEAS SUCH AS "EUROCOMMUNISM" DOES NOT MEAN THAT FOREIGN COMMUNIST PARTIES HAVE SEVERED THEIR TIES WITH MOSCOW.

3. COMMENTARY ENDS BY AFFIRMING THAT PROGUE'S SPRING TRAGEDY

CAME ABOUT BECAUSE SOVIETS CANNOT TOLERATE ARMED REVOLTS BY
FOREIGN COMMUNIST PARTIES AGAINST MOSCOW'S LEADERSHIP:
" THAT WOULD BE LIKE A CHILD REBELLING AGAINST HIS FATHER." ITEM
DUMAS

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